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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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TRANSCRIPT OF PRESS AND RADIO NEWS BRIEFING, MONDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 10, 1962, 12:17 p.m., EDT

MR. REAP: The only thing we have in the works is the usual weekly roundup. Apparently, that came in a little bit late, and it is not yet ready. We will have it for you in the course of the afternoon. But that is all I have.

Q Is Rusk going to have any press conference this week, Joe?

A I am not prepared to announce any yet.

Q In connection with the U-2, the Chinese Communists were insisting that the plane was based in Japan. Is there any basis for that?

A Spence, I answered that question last week. I pointed out to you the Japanese Foreign Minister, in July 1960, said there were no U-2's based there any more.

Q Is that still true today, Joe?

A It is still true today.

Q Joe, some people have sought to draw a distinction between whether a plane is based somewhere and whether it flies from an airfield. Are we to take this answer as meaning that the U-2's in question have not flown from any Japanese territory?

A Well, I am not using any semantics here in my answer. It is intended to be a straight answer.

Q Well, Joe, do you have any comment on the broader Chinese charges that although the Nationalists may be flying these planes that this is in reality just part of a world-wide U. S. espionage scheme, where the United States gets others to do this work for it?

A Well, I can refer you to our statement of yesterday: that there was a contract, a direct sale, between Lockheed and the Chinese Nationalist Government, and that export licenses were issued. Beyond that, I think we have made clear it was a Chinese Nationalist affair.

Q Thank you.

A Now I think we have said everything we are prepared to say on the subject of the U-2's. We see no further advantage whatsoever--

Q Slower.

A --We see no further advantage whatsoever in discussing the matter further.

Q Mr. Reap, do you have an agreement or some sort of understanding with the Japanese Government regarding the operation of this U-2?

A I have said all I am going to say about U-2's.

Q How about export licenses? Can we discuss that?

A No comment.

Q Are we giving-- You are not going to discuss export licenses?

A No comment.

Q Does the United States get any benefit of the information the Chinese Nationalists were getting?

A Let me say, for background, we have a number of allies. We do exchange information.

Q How about the issuance of export licenses for strategic materials to the Soviet Union? Can you discuss that?

A No comment.

Q Joe, are you able to comment on the general subject of flights over the Chinese Mainland by Chinese Nationalist planes?

A No comment.

Q I am thinking of another subject entirely.

A I know you were.

Q Senator Keating had something to say about the possibility of American officials entertaining a Berlin-Cuba deal with the Soviets. Do you have any comment?

A I have no comment on anything Senator Keating has said.

Q All right. Will you comment on the subject in general? Is there a possibility?

A No. Because he said it.

Q Well, if he hadn't of said it?

A Then, I would not be asked the question, I hope.

Q Do you have any comment on the basing of the U. S. ~~Polaris~~ Submarines on Guam? This has just been announced.

A On Guam?

Q Yes.

A No. I am sure that is a Pentagon matter.

Q Joe, Senator Dodd points out this morning, in a speech prepared for the floor, that NATO ships are steaming toward Cuba with supplies. Any comment at all on that?

A I have no comment on anything Senator Dodd has said.

Q Well, let me rephrase the question: are there any NATO ships steaming towards Cuba with Russian material, as far as the State Department knows?

A I would rather not comment.

Q Well, Joe, there have been reports, entirely previous to anything Senator Dodd said (in fact, he may have read the reports), to the effect that we were asking our

NATO allies to see if they could do something to prevent the chartering of foreign shipments to Russia for their aid. Do you have any comment on this?

A Well, at--I think it was his last press conference--

Q Yes.

A --President Kennedy said we would discuss this with NATO countries.

Q Yes, but that was almost two weeks ago. What happened since?

A We have been discussing it at the NATO capitals.

Q Joe, is it your policy not to comment on the comments of any member or the United States Senate, or just these two in particular?

[Laughter]

A No comment.

Q Is the matter of export licenses a matter of classification? Are applications for export licenses classified?

A No comment.

Q Joe, you say you have been discussing this question at NATO capitals. Can you tell us what kind of a reception we are getting in these discussions, or anything? Is there any more you can add to this?

A No. My understanding is that the reaction has been generally satisfactory.

Q Is there any tally as to just how many ships are bearing NATO flags, and from what countries they are coming?

A I don't have that, no.

Q Joe, is there any new tally on the number of Soviet ships bringing arms to Cuba?

A I have nothing up to date, John.

Q Joe, a couple of weeks ago the inquiry was supposed to be under way into whether a Cuban student revolutionary group, headquartered in Miami, had violated the Neutrality Act by shelling Havana.

I notice that a leader of that group is quoted again today as saying he intends further activities of that sort.

Are you able to say what has happened to this inquiry?

A No, I have not seen the results of the investigation.

Q Has it been completed?

A I don't know.

Q Could you outline somewhat more, Joe, what you consider a generally satisfactory reaction?

A No, I don't think I can.

Q        Thank you, Mr. Reap. We know you tried,  
boy.

[Whereupon, at 12:27 p.m., the press conference  
was concluded.]

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